bathymetry along the Western and Eastern Coasts of India are being explored under the APEX programme. So far, over 25,700 line kilometres (LK) of seismic data has been acquired. Based on the data acquired and processed, a number of prospects have been identified including the areas spread over deep water areas of Bombay Offshore. Kerala-Konkan, Cauvery and Krishna-Godavari basins which have been prioritised for exploratory test drilling during the current Plan period.

A provision of Rs. 150 crores has been earmarked in the Annual Plan of ONGC for the Year 1996-97 for deep water drilling.

(c) As per the recommended outlay by the Planning Commission, an amount of Rs. 4550 crores was envisaged for exploration. This was subsequently enhanced to Rs. 8503 crores after formulation of APEX. Out of this, Rs. 8248 crores are expected to be spent during VIII Plan period.

Outlays for IX Plan has not yet been firmed up.

Allocation of ISD/STD/PCOs in Visakhapatnam

2497. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications from Visakhapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh for ISD/STD/PCOs;

(b) the number of ISD/STD/PCOs allotted in 1994-95 in Visakhapatnam; and

(c) the steps proposed to clear this backing in Visakhapatnam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 123 applications are at present pending for allotment of STD/ISD/PCOs were allotted, during 1994-95, in Visakhapatnam.

(c) The pending 123 applications which have been received after 19.9.95, the date on which the STD/ISD/PCO Allotment Committee last met and allotted 404 STD/ISD/PCOs, would be cleared after expansion of the exchanges

Plight of Animals in Darjeeling Himalayan Padmaja Naidu Zoo

2498. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the rare species of birls and animals in Darjeeling Himalayan Padmaja Naidu Zoo are the victims of negligence, malnutrition and callousness?

(b) whether it is a fact that animals like tigers are kept underfed/ undernourished denying them of their quota of meat etc;

(c) if so, whether the Government have instituted any enquiry in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Developmental work by North-Eastern Council

2499. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released to North-Eastern Council (NEC) for developmental projects during the last five years, Year-Wise;

(b) the details of the developmental projects undertaken/to be under taken by the NEC, State-Wise in last five years, year-wise along with total amount spent/ to be spent on these projects, project-wise;

(c) whether NEC proposes to finance Moranhat-Dibrugarh rail alignment, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of present sanctioned strength of staff and actual positioned strength of NEC, designation-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE